

Governor Patrick joins Portuguese Ambassador for Business Roundtable

BOSTON – Tuesday, October 16, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today welcomed Portuguese Ambassador to the United States Nuno Brito to the Massachusetts State House for a business roundtable with representatives from Massachusetts companies in the life sciences, digital technology and clean energy sectors. The roundtable served as an opportunity to foster new and existing economic and cultural ties between Massachusetts and Portugal.

With a large Lusophone community, Massachusetts is one of only two states, if not the only, in the United States in which Portuguese is spoken more often than Spanish. In 2008, Governor Patrick signed a Sister-State Agreement with the Azores Autonomous Region (of Portugal), represented by then President Carlos César. The purpose of this agreement was to encourage the growth of trade and investment relations between Massachusetts and the Azores Region within the framework of global free trade.

In 2011, Massachusetts exported approximately \$16.2 million in goods to Portugal. In 2011, Massachusetts imported approximately \$35.4 million in goods from Portugal.

Governor Patrick has focused on advancing Massachusetts' relationships around the world in order to compete in the 21st century global economy. Governor Patrick has led delegations of business, academic and government leaders to China, Israel, the United Kingdom, Chile and Brazil.